

OBITUARY NOTICES OF FELLOWS DECEASED.

FREDERICK LE GROS CLARK, F.R.S., F.R.C.S.Eng., who died on the 19th July, 1892, after a brief illness, at the ripe age of 81, was born on the 7th February, 1811, in Mincing Lane, the youngest of nine children of a city merchant. His early years were spent in the city. In 1822 he went to reside as a pupil with the Rev. Ford Richardson, at Iron Acton, in Gloucestershire, where he remained four years. Here he received a very excellent education. He had always expressed a desire to become a Surgeon; but his father, before deciding, consulted his friend, Mr. Benjamin Travers, then the distinguished Senior Surgeon to St. Thomas's Hospital, who allowed the son to have the run of the hospital for a couple of months, at the end of which time his father gave him the choice of entering his own counting house or of being apprenticed to Mr. Travers. In February, 1827, at the age of 16, he was apprenticed, and at once began his hospital career. He appears to have been an industrious and distinguished pupil, for in 1830 he obtained the Cheselden Medal, and in the same year was appointed Assistant Demonstrator of Anatomy, under Mr. Tyrrell. He spent the summer session of this year in Dublin. In 1833 he passed his examination at the Royal College of Surgeons. The summer session of that year he spent in Paris, that of 1834 in Edinburgh, that of 1835 in Berlin; and in 1836 he passed three months at Göttingen. In 1837 he took rooms near the hospital and started in practice. He continued working at the hospital, and teaching anatomy; and in 1842, when the Hospital Medical School was remodelled, he was elected Lecturer on Descriptive and Surgical Anatomy; and in 1843, on Mr. Tyrrell's death, he was appointed Assistant Surgeon. He then removed to Finsbury Square. In 1847 he was elected Surgical Secretary to the Medico-Chirurgical Society, and in the following year moved to Spring Gardens. In 1853 he was appointed full Surgeon to the hospital; and increasing engagements compelled him to retire from the Chair of Anatomy in 1854, though still retaining the lectures on Regional and Surgical Anatomy. In 1858 he removed to St. Thomas's Street, at the request of the Governors, and in 1860 became Lecturer on Surgery, an appointment which he held down to his retirement from the hospital. In 1864 he was appointed Examiner in Surgery to the Royal College of

b

Physicians for two years; and in July of the same year was elected a Member of the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons, and was at the head of the poll. In 1866 he was appointed Examiner in Surgery to the University of London for a period of five years; in 1867 Professor of Human Anatomy and Surgery to the College of Surgeons; in 1868 Hunterian Professor of Surgery and Pathology; and Examiner at the College in 1870. In 1872 he was appointed Vice-President of the College, and in 1874 President, giving the Hunterian Oration on the 13th February, 1875, the forty-eighth anniversary of his apprenticeship to the college. In 1872 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society. In 1873 he retired from the hospital, having retained office for a year or two at the special request of the Governors. In 1877 he gave up practice, and took up his residence permanently at Sevenoaks; and in 1879 he retired from the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons. But even after his retirement he remained a busy and active man. He still continued Consulting Surgeon to the South Eastern Railway Company; he was always ready to give professional assistance to his neighbours; he was Consulting Surgeon to and an active Governor of the Hospital with which he had been so long connected, took great interest in the welfare and progress of the Medical School, attended all anniversary and other important or interesting meetings, taking part in their proceedings; and he retained his connexion with the Salters Company, of which he had been twice master, at twenty years' interval. It should be added, that in addition to other duties he was for some years Surgeon to the Magdalen Hospital and to the London Female Penitentiary, and Consulting Surgeon to the Surrey County and Great Northern Hospitals.

Mr. Le Gros Clark was in many respects a remarkable man. In the first place he had striking physical endowments; he was tall and well made, spare but very muscular, singularly handsome, with dark curly hair and whiskers, dark grey eyes and bushy eyebrows, and well-formed features; and was remarkably dignified and gentlemanly in appearance and demeanour. As a young man he was a great athlete, excelling especially in rowing, boxing, and riding, and he retained this activity of body to the last. He was hardly what one would term a genial man; but he was a man of the highest character, he was absolutely unselfish and unself seeking; whatever he undertook to do he did with all his might, he was perfectly truthful and trustworthy, and always kind and considerate for others, and a warm and appreciative friend. He was a devout Christian, and member of the Church of England. As a surgeon and a teacher he was excellent. He was a thorough anatomist, and an admirable lecturer on anatomy. He had had a wide experience as a surgeon, and was admirably well up in the subject; he was conscientiously attentive to his patients,

and neglected nothing for their benefit, and he was a faultless operator. As a clinical teacher he was admirable. He was not, and did not aim at being, a speaker of commanding eloquence; nevertheless he was a most excellent and ready lecturer and speaker. His manner was always quiet and gentlemanly; his language was always simple and well chosen; and his matter was always appropriate to the occasion. He was consequently not only a clear and attractive lecturer, but he was a clear and attractive speaker on all festive and other occasions. Although he was a scientific surgeon and anatomist he did not do much original scientific work. He wrote many papers on points in anatomy and surgery that interested him; he lectured (as before stated) at the Royal College of Surgeons. He delivered three introductory addresses at St. Thomas's Hospital. While president he delivered the Hunterian Oration at the College of Surgeons, an address which was philosophical and full of thought. He contributed a paper on 'The Mechanism of Respiration' to the 'Proceedings of the Royal Society' (vol. 20, 1872). In 1836 he published a work on the anatomy and physiology of the nervous system; in 1847 and 1853 he translated two volumes of Dupuytren's '*Leçons Orales*' for the Sydenham Society; he published 'Lectures on Surgical Diagnosis of Visceral Lesions' in 1870; and 'Outlines of Surgery,' of which a second edition appeared in 1872; Paley's '*Natural Theology*,' edited for the S.P.C.K. in 1875; a little manual of physiology for the same society in 1883; several articles on anatomy and physiology in the '*Encyclopædia Metropolitana*' about 1840; several papers in the '*Medico-Chirurgical Transactions*;' critical articles in the '*British and Foreign Quarterly*,' and he made a few contributions of cases to the medical papers. Lastly, he published a collection of '*Miscellaneous Essays*,' which had already appeared in various periodicals, &c.

J. S. B.